

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

An information network disposed between a first information relaying apparatus and a terminal is equipped with existing circuit multiplexing modules. Signals from the information relaying apparatus pass through additional information relaying apparatuses to relay signals output from the first information relaying apparatus. The additional information relaying apparatuses associate LAN lines between the information relaying apparatus and the terminal into separate groups and monitor these LAN lines. If a failure is detected, then all LAN lines belonging to the group of the LAN line experiencing the failure are shut down. The circuit multiplexers in the first information relaying apparatus are then instructed to use a different LAN line that is not experiencing failure so that communication can continue.